

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SY-05 ORM-02 DHA-02 /076 W
----- 049034

R 191234Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 620

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET GW

SUBJ: DIRG MEMBER DEFECTS IN WEST GERMANY

1. FRG CHARGE VON KROSIGK TOLD US AUG 18 THAT A DIRG MEMBER WHO HE IDENTIFIED AS MAJOR NEGASH TESFA-TSION LEFT ON EPMG MISSION IN WEST BERLIN, TURNED UP IN NURNBERG AND REQUESTED ASYLUM. VON KROSIGK UNDERSTANDS HE WAS MEMBER OF DIRG'S INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEFECTION ARE MYSTERIOUS AND HAZY. FRG EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS MISSION CONSISTED OF FIVE MEN, THREE OF WHOM WERE ALLEGEDLY DIRG MEMBERS AND OTHER TWO PERHAPS SECURITY MEN. APPARENT PURPOSE OF MISSION WAS TO CONTACT STUDENTS IN WEST BERLIN AND TO CHECK ON "STUDENT CONFERENCE" THERE. FRG EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THERE IS OR WAS NO CONFERENCE IN EITHER WEST OR EAST BERLIN, BUT THAT GROUP DID CONTACT SOME STUDENTS FOR PURPOSES AS YET UNKNOWN. THEY HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE THAT GROUP WAS LEAVING ADDIS, LEARNING OF IT SOMEWHAT ACCIDENTALLY AS RESULT TELEPHONE CALL FROM EPMG MOFA OFFICIAL WHO APPARENTLY ASSUMED VON KROSIGK WAS AWARE OF VISIT. CALLER THEN BECAME EMBARRASSED WHEN IT CLEAR VON KROSIGK DID NOT.

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3. DEFECTION KNOWN BOTH TO EPMG HERE AND ETHIOPIAN

EMBASSY BONN. VON KROSIGK HAS TOLD ETHIOPIANS THAT ONLY COURTS HAVE POWER DECIDE ASYLUM CASES IN FRG AND THAT COURT MOST LIKELY WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO NEGASH IF HE NOW WERE RETURNED TO ETHIOPIA. ETHIOPIANS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT YET MADE ANY KIND OF REQUEST, BUT VON KROSIGK FEARS THAT IF WEST GERMAN COURT GRANTS ASYLUM, IT COULD STRAIN FRG-EPMG RELATIONS. SIDELIGHT INVOLVES OTHER FOUR. THEY CLAIM THEY HAVE NO MONEY TO PAY HOTEL BILL IN WEST BERLIN. VON KROSIGK UNDERSTANDS HIS GOVERNMENT WILL SUBMIT BILL TO ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN BONN IF NECESSARY.
TIENKEN

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